

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus that can include a plurality of application programs that are usable on the image forming apparatus and that include at least one of a copy application program, a printer application program, and a FAX application program, the image forming apparatus comprising:

a displaying part configured to display a screen used for selecting an application program on an operation display part of the image forming apparatus; and

an assigning part configured to assign a selected application program that is selected on the screen to a function key when the function key is pushed, such that the selected application program is executed when the function key is later pushed after assigning of the selected application program has occurred;

a control part configured to launch the application program assigned to the function key when the function key is pushed;

a determination part configured to determine whether the function key is assigned a plurality of application programs or a single application program;

if the determination part determines that a plurality of application programs are assigned to the function key and when the function key is pushed, the control part ~~[[is]]~~ being configured to display a selection screen on the operation panel, for selecting an application program from among the plurality of application programs assigned to the function key, and ~~launches~~ launch an application program selected on the selection screen; and

if the determination part determines that a single application program is assigned to the function key, the control part ~~launches~~ being configured to launch the single application program without displaying the selection screen when the function key is pushed; and

a screen switching unit configured to switch a screen displayed on the operation display part to a screen of an application program that is selected on the selection screen or selected by pushing the function key.

Claim 2 (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the function key is a hardware key.

Claim 3 (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the function key is a software key that is displayed on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein assigning by the assigning part is performed when the image forming apparatus is in a mode for assigning the selected application program to the function key.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when assigning of the selected application program is performed, the image forming apparatus displays a guidance screen indicating an operation of the function key on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 6 (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the guidance screen includes an image of an operation panel of the image forming apparatus and an image for guiding a user to the function key.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when assigning of the selected application program is performed, the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating the number of application programs assigned to the function key.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, the assigning part including:

a part obtaining a function key ID corresponding to the pushed function key; and

a part storing an application program ID of the selected application program and the obtained function key ID in which the application program ID is associated with the function key ID.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein, in addition to the function key ID, the image forming apparatus stores extension key IDs for identifying a plurality of application programs assigned to the function key.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when a function key to which a plurality of application programs are assigned is pushed, the image forming apparatus displays a screen including the names of the plurality of application programs for a user to select one application program from the plurality of application programs.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the image forming apparatus displays application program status for each of the plurality of application programs.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application program from a plurality of application programs according to a number of times a user pushes a function key to which the plurality of application programs are assigned within a time period.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application program from a plurality of application programs in which the one application program corresponds to an extension key ID that is the same as a number of times a user pushes the function key to which the plurality of application programs are assigned within a time period.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method used for assigning an application program to a function key in an image forming apparatus that can include a plurality of application programs that are usable on the image forming apparatus and that include at least one of a copy application program, a printer application program, and a FAX application program, the method comprising:

displaying a screen used for selecting an application program on an operation display part of the image forming apparatus; and

assigning a selected application program that is selected on the screen to a function key when the function key is pushed, such that the selected application program is executed

when the function key is later pushed after assigning of the selected application program has occurred;

determining whether the function key is assigned a plurality of application programs or a single application program;

if it is determined that a plurality of application programs are assigned to the function key and when the function key is pushed, displaying a selection screen on the operation display part, for selecting an application program from among the plurality of application programs assigned to the function key, and launching an application program selected on the selection screen; [[and]]

if it is determined that a single application program is assigned to the function key, launching the single application program without displaying the selection screen when the function key is pushed; and

switching a screen displayed on the operation display part to a screen of an application program that is selected on the selection screen or selected by pushing the function key.

Claim 16 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the function key is a hardware key.

Claim 17 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the function key is a software key that is displayed on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the step of assigning is performed when the image forming apparatus is in a mode for assigning the selected application program to the function key.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein, when assigning of the selected application program is performed, the image forming apparatus displays a guidance screen indicating an operation of the function key on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 20 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the guidance screen includes an image of an operation panel of the image forming apparatus and an image for guiding a user to the function key.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein, when assigning of the selected application program is performed, the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating the number of application programs assigned to the function key.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein, in the step of assigning, the image forming apparatus obtains a function key ID corresponding to the pushed function key; and stores an application program ID of the selected application program and the obtained function key ID in which the application program ID is associated with the function key ID.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein, in addition to the function key ID, the image forming apparatus stores extension key IDs for identifying a plurality of application programs assigned to the function key.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein, when a function key to which a plurality of application programs are assigned is pushed, the image forming apparatus displays a screen including the names of the plurality of application programs for a user to select one application program from the plurality of application programs.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the image forming apparatus displays application program status for each of the plurality of application programs.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application program from a plurality of application programs according to a number of times a user pushes a function key to which the plurality of application programs are assigned within a time period.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the image forming apparatus selects one application program from a plurality of application programs in which the one application program corresponds to an extension key ID that is the same as a number of times a user pushes the function key to which the plurality of application programs are assigned within a time period.

Claims 29-42 (Canceled).

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): A non-transitory computer readable medium storing a computer program for causing an image forming apparatus to assign an application program to a function key, in which the image forming apparatus can include a plurality of application programs that are usable on the image forming apparatus and that include at least one of a copy application program, a printer application program, and a FAX application program, the computer program comprising:

displaying a screen used for selecting an application program on an operation display part of the image forming apparatus; and

assigning a selected application program that is selected on the screen to a function key when the function key is pushed, such that the selected application program is executed when the function key is later pushed after assigning of the selected application program has occurred;

determining whether the function key is assigned a plurality of application programs or a single application program;

if it is determined that a plurality of application programs are assigned to the function key and when the function key is pushed, displaying a selection screen on the operation display part, for selecting an application program from among the plurality of application programs assigned to the function key, and launching an application program selected on the selection screen; [[and]]

if it is determined that a single application program is assigned to the function key, launching the single application program without displaying the selection screen when the function key is pushed; and

switching a screen displayed on the operation display part to a screen of an application program that is selected on the selection screen or selected by pushing the function key.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): The non-transitory computer readable medium as claimed in claim 43, wherein the function key is a hardware key.

Claim 45 (Currently Amended): The non-transitory computer readable medium as claimed in claim 43, wherein the function key is a software key that is displayed on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 46 (Currently Amended): The non-transitory computer readable medium as claimed in claim 43, wherein the assigning is performed when the image forming apparatus is in a mode for assigning the selected application program to the function key.

Claim 47 (Currently Amended): The non-transitory computer readable medium as claimed in claim 43, further comprising displaying a guidance screen indicating an operation of the function key on the operation display part of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): The non-transitory computer readable medium as claimed in claim 47, wherein the guidance screen includes an image of an operation panel of the image forming apparatus and an image for guiding a user to the function key.

Claim 49 (Currently Amended): The non-transitory computer readable medium as claimed in claim 43, further comprising displaying a screen indicating the number of application programs assigned to the function key.

Claim 50 (Currently Amended): The non-transitory computer readable medium as claimed in claim 49, further comprising displaying a screen indicating that the function key cannot be assigned to the selected application program if the number of application programs assigned to the function key already reaches a limit number.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended): The non-transitory computer readable medium as claimed in claim 43, further comprising:

obtaining a function key ID corresponding to the pushed function key; and
storing an application program ID of the selected application program and the obtained function key ID in which the application program ID is associated with the function key ID.

Claim 52 (Currently Amended): The non-transitory computer readable medium as claimed in claim 51, wherein, in addition to the function key ID, storing extension key IDs for identifying a plurality of application programs assigned to the function key.

Claim 53 (Canceled).

Claim 54 (Currently Amended): The non-transitory computer readable medium as claimed in claim 43, wherein the application program status for each of the plurality of application programs is displayed.

Claim 55 (Currently Amended): The non-transitory computer readable medium as claimed in claim 43, further comprising:

selecting one application program from a plurality of application programs according to a number of times a user pushes a function key to which the plurality of application programs are assigned within a time period.

Claim 56 (Currently Amended): The non-transitory computer readable medium as claimed in claim 52, further comprising:

selecting one application program from a plurality of application programs in which the one application program corresponds to an extension key ID that is the same as a number of times a user pushes the function key to which the plurality of application programs are assigned within a time period.

Claim 57 (Previously Presented): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when the function key is pushed for the assigning of the selected application program, the image forming apparatus displays a screen indicating that the function key cannot be assigned to the selected application program if the number of application programs assigned to the function key already reaches a limit number.